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LONG LIVE COMRADE MAO ZEDONG

“Liberalism is extremely harmful in a revolutionary collective. It is a corrosive which eats away unity, undermines cohesion, causes apathy and creates dissension. It robs the revolutionary ranks of compact organization and strict discipline, prevents policies from being carried through and alienates the Party organizations from the masses which the Party leads. It is an extremely bad tendency. Liberalism stems from petty-bourgeois selfishness, it places personal interests first and the interests of the revolution second, and this gives rise to ideological, political and organizational liberalism. People who are liberals look upon the principles of Marxism as abstract dogma. They approve of Marxism but are not prepared to practise it or to practise it in full; they are not prepared to replace their liberalism by Marxism.... Liberalism is a manifestation of opportunism and conflicts fundamentally with Marxism. It is negative and objectively has the effect of helping the enemy; that is why the enemy welcomes its preservation in our midst. Such being its nature, there should be no place for it in the ranks of the revolution.”

(Combat Liberalism—7 September 1937)



26.9.1893 – 9.9.1976

Not through elections but only through social revolution can emancipation from exploitation be attained

Comrade Provash Ghosh in Memorial Meeting in Kolkata on 5 August

(This is the English translation of the speech delivered by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), in Bengali at the 42nd Memorial Day meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat, in Kolkata on 5 August 2018. Tens of thousands of people present at the meeting patiently listened in rapt attention ignoring the incessant and torrential rain. Responsibility of translation error or inadequate expression, if any, lies with the Editorial Board of P Era)

We have been observing 5 August with deep emotion and pain in our heart and with profound reverence. Year after year the day of 5 August will come. We shall not be there nor will many among you. But the toiling Indian people longing for emancipation will observe this Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Marxist thinker, the teacher and guide of the proletariat with due solemnity and determine their duties on the basis of his invaluable illumining teachings. This meeting is being held in the midst of incessant rain for the last few days. Even today, it is raining continuously. Yet you all have come to attend this meeting from the villages and towns of different corners of the state. Today, I shall mainly try to discuss a few contemporary problems in the light of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

As you can see, the drums of election have already started beating in the country. Parties, small and big – BJP, Congress, RJD, BSP, SP, DMK, AIADMK, JD(U), Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, CPI, CPI(M), and in West Bengal the Trinamool Congress (TMC) –all have jumped into the fray and are busy working out electoral arithmetic to calculate how many seats they would be able to win. Everyone is busy formulating what false promises they would make and what methods

they would use to dupe the people to score in the elections. Side by side, On the other hand, they are holding secret talks with the industrialists, big businessmen, black-marketeers and profiteers to secure funds from them to spend in the election. Already the BJP camp and the Congress camp have started calculating how many seats they will have to manage to secure state-wise. In fact, though elections are not yet held, not to speak of counting of the votes, they have even announced how many seats they will win in which state. In West Bengal the TMC Chief Minister has declared that her party is going to win all the 42 Parliamentary seats. There are already many claimants for the hot seat in the central ministry in the event the BJP is dethroned. The CPI, CPI(M) have been unseated in West Bengal and Tripura. In Kerala, they are somehow holding on to power. They are now tailing behind the Congress in the hope of managing a few seats in alliance with it and if, after election, the Congress forms the government then, as an ally of the Congress, they would gain some space in the corridor of power. In such a situation, it is only our Party which, being armed with great Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, is organizing many struggles with a revolutionary outlook over the pressing demands of people's life. While remaining engaged in this relentless struggle, we shall take part in the election with a revolutionary outlook.

In this connection I would like to bring to you what great Lenin, the teacher of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, said in 1918. In those days the bourgeois parliamentary democracy was not as rotten as it is today and did not present such an ugly spectacle. Comrade Lenin said, “A democratic republic is the best possible political shell for capitalism, and, therefore, once capital

has gained possession of this very best shell it establishes its power so securely, so firmly, that no change, either of persons, of institutions, or of parties in the bourgeois-democratic republic, can shake it....To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament — such is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism.”¹ Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, ardent student of great Lenin, said way back in 1967: “When people get disgusted and resentful against the government, another government steps in through elections. The common people hold some persons to be dishonest, they think that it will bring them good if only the dishonest were removed and in their place honest men were installed. Bourgeois parliamentary politicians resort to this type of propaganda with the object of confusing the people under cover of a ‘principle’ or ‘ideology’. So, I would caution the workers, peasants and the common people not to be swayed by this type of deception. Because, only through a change of government the basic problems of the common people had never been resolved, will never be resolved....the emancipation of the people from the capitalist yoke and the oppressive capitalist system will be impossible to achieve through change of government a thousand times, through elections, or through attempts to rewrite the letters of the laws. The only way to achieve emancipation is to gradually build up the invincible revolutionary united strength of the people through conduct of democratic movements on the correct base political line and to accomplish socialist revolution under the leadership of the revolutionary working class party.”² He further said, “Election is bourgeois politics. If the masses lack political consciousness, if the working class

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Through NRC, BJP stokes fire of communal-chauvinism for electoral interest

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is not in the midst of struggle and does not have its own class organization, if there is no mass movement and if the people are not armed with the strength of a conscious organization, the big industrialists, businessmen and the reactionary forces create such a hype with the help of money and media power that the common masses get swayed by that just like the way a sheaf of thatch-grass gets swamped by rush of water.”³ I have placed the teachings of these two great revolutionary leaders before you, so that our approach towards election from a Marxist standpoint becomes clear.

Starting from 1952, many parliamentary elections have been held in our country, and several times the government has been changed through such elections. In our state, there was the rule of the Congress for many years. Then, first in 1967 and then in 1969, two United Front governments were formed. Afterwards, it was again the Congress which was saddled in power again. Then from 1977, the CPI(M)-led Front government took over and reigned for 34 years. And now there is a Trinamool Congress government for the last 7 years or so. Likewise, the government has been changed several times. All the parties, before the elections, raise the slogan of bringing about 'change'. But though the governments have changed, ministers have changed, this party has come to power in place of that party, has the lot of the people changed? Eight years ago, former President of India said that in a population of 120 crores, 62 crores are unemployed. The figure has certainly reached 70 crores by now. Has the problem of employment in our country been solved through elections? Has there been a rein on retrenchment? Has price-rise been checked?

NRC is a conspiracy to foment anti-Muslim sentiment and thereby gain electoral benefits

Recently, the BJP has motivatedly stoked the fire of NRC (National Registrar of Citizens) in Assam and has hatched a heinous conspiracy to brand more than 40 lakh Indians as foreigners and expel them from the country. A leader of the BJP has boasted that if they come to power in West Bengal, they would do the same thing here also. In Assam, the BJP and its communal-chauvinist allies are

branding the Bengali-speaking Hindus and Muslims, the Nepalese and the tribals as infiltrators. In West Bengal, they are campaigning that the Muslims living here are infiltrators and the unemployment problem in West Bengal is due to these infiltrators. I want to put a straight question to them: as per media report, in Uttar Pradesh (UP) last year, as many as 23 lakh people had applied for just 368 posts of peons. The requisite qualification for this post was education up to class IV level. But, among the 23 lakh young applicants, there were a good number of post-graduates, doctorates, engineers, etc. I ask how many infiltrators are there in UP? Why are there so many unemployed in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat? There are lakhs and lakhs of unemployed in the country. Where, when and how many infiltrators have entered to exacerbate the unemployment problem? By spreading such lies, the BJP is fomenting the Hindu sentiment in West Bengal and is conspiring to get more votes in the coming election by whipping up anti-Muslim sentiments among the erstwhile refugees who migrated to India after the riots of 1947 and 1950. The scheme of NRC in Assam is also aimed at fomenting anti-Muslim sentiment and create polarization among the toiling masses along religious-lingual lines. An extreme chauvinist Assamese group had raised this demand of NRC much earlier. It would be wrong to blame the entire people of Assam for this. The honest-thinking, conscientious people of Assam do not support it. The State Secretary of our Party in Assam is herself an Assamese-speaking person. Our Party in Assam has many Assamese-speaking leaders and cadres. From the time of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), a chauvinist outfit, spearheaded the so called Assam movement during Indira Gandhi's time, our Assamese-speaking comrades had stood against this, fought against such a vile move. Right from those days, it is only our Party which upheld a different point of view on this issue. Comrade Asit Bhattacharya, Polit Bureau member sitting next to me, was then the Assam State Secretary of our Party. He got an opportunity to talk to Smt. Indira Gandhi in an all-party meeting over the 'infiltrator' issue. He categorically pointed out to her that such 'expulsion' of so called infiltrators would provide no solution of the

problems of food-shelter-clothing or employment. He placed definite, concrete proposals for development of Assam by way of fostering industrialization, educational cum linguistic advancement and cultural progress of all sections of toiling people of the state. It is only our Party which staunchly opposed the NRC scheme from the very beginning. It is the Congress which first entered into an agreement with the chauvinist-communal forces for preparing the NRC, and the BJP is now taking advantage of that to further its narrow sectarian interest. Those who are now opposing the NRC from electoral considerations, had all supported it then. This time the Assam government had convened an all-party meeting for discussing the issue. But it did not call our Party. The Congress-CPI-CPI(M) all went for discussions and they all supported the NRC. In our state also, in 2005, the TMC had raised the bogey of infiltration. At that time, the Muslims used to support the CPI(M). So, reckoning that they would not get the Muslim votes, the TMC propagated that huge number of infiltrators had entered West Bengal through a porous border. They even made a ruckus in the Parliament on this question. And today, the same TMC is granting allowances to the Masjid Imams and Moazzams and wearing hijabs during Eid-Namaj. Through all these, they are pretending to be only friends of the Muslim and are in that process, deluding a section of the Muslim population for reaping electoral benefits. Now it is a compulsive necessity for them to raise a different Bengali-Hindu, Bengali –Muslim sentiment. In Assam, the BJP is raising the bogey of 'infiltrators' or so called 'foreigners' for cornering the votes of the Assamese-speaking people. At the same time, they are harping that the draft NRC would be rectified. In other words, dangling the sword of NRC at the Bengali-speaking Hindu-Muslim people, they would blackmail them by saying "vote for us, give us money and we will include your name in the NRC". All these nasty games are in the petty electoral interest!

This is a dangerous conspiracy. Hitler expelled the Jews from Germany, killed millions of them, and fanned up a racial hatred against them. Here the BJP is stoking the fire of communalism. But the matter would not stop there. Slogans would be raised—"Expel the Bengalis" in Bihar and Odisha. In Maharashtra,

they would raise the demand that Maharashtra is for Marathi-speaking people only. In every state, they would foment a loud clamour: "Expel the outsiders meaning the persons from other states." As it is, fratricidal strifes are engineered over reservation of quotas in jobs. An atmosphere of fratricidal hatred and riots would now pervade the whole country. They are trying to engineer not only Hindu-Muslim riots but to ignite all forms of inter-nationality conflicts, orchestrate attack of the upper caste Hindus upon the dalits and tribal people and fights between linguistic communities thereby enmeshing the country in a conflagration. From Bangladesh, both poor Hindus and poor Muslims are migrating to India. But the BJP is deliberately branding the Muslims as 'infiltrators' and the Hindus as 'refugees'. This is a sinister communal ploy of the BJP. Poor people migrate to different countries just for eking out a bare living. So many poor Indian persons have been emigrating to the Arab countries. Many Indians have settled in USA, Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Germany and such other countries. Many of them have become citizens of those countries. If a demand is now floated in these countries to drive out the Indians, will the Indian government accept that? Many Indian labourers are in the Arab countries with jobs. Now Saudi Arabia is saying that as their own people are facing unemployment, the Indian labourers must go back. The Indian government has expressed their concern over it. Many Indian technicians and IT professionals go to the USA for gainful engagement. Now, USA is telling that it would not issue H1B visas and thereby restrict entry of Indians into that land. India has protested against this move also.

Poor people perforce migrate from one country to another in search of work. One, therefore, has to look at the matter from a humanitarian outlook. Are there riots in Bangladesh? You tell me how many riots are taking place in Bangladesh: How many Hindus are killed in Bangladesh? Riots and lynchings are happening in our country almost daily. Innocent Muslims and even dalits are being killed on the false allegation of cow slaughter.

That is why I am telling that this is an extremely sinister conspiracy. One of their objectives is to prevent surge of united struggle of the

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

If political consciousness and correct characterization of parties remain elusive, deception would be perpetual

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workers, peasants, middle class, students and the broad sections of toiling people against the government over various pressing demands like employment, availability of proper education and healthcare, bringing down prices, and stopping retrenchment, lay off etc. With this vile motive of breaking the unity of the people, they have been fanning up communal-linguistic-racial hatred and such other divides and pitting one section of the oppressed people against the other. The other objective is to create vote-banks through polarization along such divisive lines. Such is the rotten politics of these election-oriented parties. We are against it. We want democratic unity of all – workers, peasants, middle class, students, youths, women – irrespective of caste, creed, language, region, ethnicity and religion— against the ruthless capitalist exploitation.

Before every election these parties raise the slogan of 'change'. But does that 'change' really come by? What is meant by real change? All of you are plagued with problems, pain and sufferings in your daily life. There is no job. Those who have jobs are under constant threat of retrenchment. If anyone gets a job that is only temporary; he or she is ready to accept howsoever paltry sum is offered as wage. Such precarious is the situation. Young people are leaving the villages in hordes and migrating to the cities in search of jobs. The rural family life is breaking down. Lakhs of migrant labourers are roaming throughout the country to earn a pittance. Among the 119 nations with most hungry people, India's position is far in the bottom at the hundredth position. In our country, 23 crores of people go without food every day. Number of starving people in India is highest in the world. This is the finding of a survey by an international body. 77 % of the people in our country live below the poverty line. Every day, 7000 people die of hunger. Every hour, 5 peasants commit suicide. Every day 120 workers commit suicide. According to the National Crime Record Bureau, between 2014 and 2016, 35,302 persons have committed suicide. The education and healthcare service have totally broken down. There is limitless accumulation of black money. The country is swamped in corruption. The alleged corruption in Rafael deal has surpassed the corruption in Rajiv Gandhi's Bofors scandal. The

Congress is using this as a weapon in the election battle. The Prime Minister said, "Na khaunga, na khane dunga" (We will not accept bribes nor let others do so). But it turns out that he himself is mired in corruption. And the Congress is arguing, which corruption is bigger, Bofors or Rafael? Such is the 'development' of the country. Has there been no development? Of course, there has been. During the last one year the wealth of Indian billionaires constituting 1 % of the population, has increased by 20.9 lakh crores (20.9 trillion) of rupees which is equal to the total national budget for the fiscal year 2017-18. By repeatedly raising the price of petrol and diesel, the government has squeezed 10 lakh crores of rupees from the public. And every year, thousands of debt-ridden farmers are committing suicide! And on the other side, the government is waiving loan defaults to the tune of several lakh crore of rupees of big business tycoons. The government has also allowed them to stash away many lakh crore of rupees to foreign accounts.

Election is play of big money

Though Jio Institute of Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian and an intimate friend of the Prime Minister is yet to be set up and not even a brick has been laid of the proposed university, let alone holding of regular classes, yet the BJP government has conferred on it the status of "Institution of Eminence" and granted a financial assistance up to Rs 1000 crore from the public exchequer over a period of five years. Such an amazing event has not happened anywhere in the world. There has been a lot of noise on this issue. The same Mukesh Ambani's profits soared by 66 % last year. Income of Goutam Adani, another industrialist close to the Prime Minister has also increased by 66 %. The income of a saffron robed, all-renouncing *sadhu* and industrialist Baba Ramdev has increased by 173 %. The income of Amit Shah, the BJP President, has increased by 300 %. The income of Amit Shah's son has increased by 16 thousand per cent. So, it is clear whose development has taken place. Development has been for the industrialists of the country, for the capitalist class, who finance the ruling party's elections. In the last election, they financed the BJP. Again, a group of industrialists who

have not got much advantage during the BJP rule would finance the Congress. Today election is a game of big money. Where is government 'by the people, for the people, of the people'? This is found in text books only. Everyone knows that it is money power, muscle power, media power, administrative power which determine the election results. It is the money of the industrialists and big business, the criminal gangs, wide publicity in the print as well the electronic media, and the

and receive huge money. Throughout the year they take recourse to looting and extortion and during election time, they carry out the nefarious deeds. Because they have the backing of the ruling party, the police turn a blind eye. It is not criminalization of politics; it is the politicians who criminalize the youth. This is how elections are conducted. Such is the democratic election in the much-trumpeted 'largest' democracy.



Comrade Provash Ghosh addressing

bureaucracy jointly decide who will win, and who will lose. The main power belongs to the industrialists and business people. They only fund and control the criminal gang, own and run the media. The administrative machinery follows their bidding only. Such is the nature of 'free and fair election' in bourgeois democracy today. In the coming elections, you will see how crores of rupees would come into play. In the old days, the Congress used to give money as election funds to the landlords and rich farmers for the purpose of elections. The rural gentry in turn used to give some foodgrains to the poor peasants with a view to purchasing their votes. Now, money is directly supplied to the homes. They have created such a mindset among the poor people that the latter come to think that they would not get anything else. So, it is enough that at least during election time they get some cash. During the election time, thousands of unemployed are roped in to undertake the job of propaganda work, carry out strong-arm actions and intimidate people, to tamper with the voting machines and merrily indulge in all other criminal acts. These unemployed youth who offer their service to the ruling parties also earn substantially. They work under the banner of this party or that party

You have seen during the last election what a big fuss the TV and newspapers made about BJP – 'Achche din' (good days) are in the offing. Now, all of you have been experiencing what kind of "good days" have come. The BJP promised that they would unearth the entire amount of black money and deposit Rs 15 lakh in every citizen's bank account. Nobody has received even a paisa, though four years have passed. The whole thing was a deception or, as admitted by the BJP President himself, 'an electoral gimmick'. The BJP promised that they would bring down the prices of commodities and stop all corruption within a month. 72 lakh crores of rupees of Indian big business and super-rich are reported to be lying in the Swiss banks alone. Every month, Rs 7,000 crore are being deposited there. Unscrupulous businessmen like Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya have looted crores and crores of rupees and then fled the country. Narendra Modi has close relations with all of them. Newspaper reports revealed how in a function, Narendra Modi affectionately called Mehul Choksi as Mehul Bhai. To justify this Narendra Modi replied, "What does it matter? I am honest and mix with

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

RSS, mentor of BJP, called the freedom fighters traitors

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them with a clean conscience. They have no influence over me." And in his support, he referred to the proximity of the Birlas to Gandhiji. Gandhiji was from Gujarat. Modi is also from Gujarat. So, he poses himself to be the new Gandhi. Even after all this, he claims that there is no adverse imprint on his mind. Because he is the MP from Kashi! The pure Ganga water from Kashi has washed his mind clean and pure. So corruption does not taint him. He can be immersed in all sorts of filth and slime, but his mind remains clean and pure – so honest and of noble character he is. He is fooling the people of this country through such pretensions; because he thinks that everyone is a fool, that money and propaganda can achieve anything, even turn night into day.

Election is a festival of corruption

We may call the present-day elections as festivals of corruption. The corruption in today's elections is a hundred times more than what used to be the case during the elections of 1960s. You go to any locality — you will find youths counting the days to the next election. They are busy estimating how much they would earn in the next election. These vote-based parties have destroyed the morality, character, self-respect and humanity of the youth, turned them into slaves to money. They have been made purchasable by a few bits of silver. This is also another attack of the capitalist class. We are also noticing with grave concern a disquieting development among the people. Their mentality has become like this - so and so is dishing out money and so we will vote for him; after all he is giving out some money. He who gives more money will get the vote. But the money they are so distributing belongs to whom? Whose money is it? The people do not think for a moment that the money comes from the businessmen, from the capitalists – the capitalists who have amassed fabulous wealth through merciless exploitation, squeezing even the last drop of blood of the impoverished workers and peasants, by retrenching the workers, by raising the prices sky-high. It is these oppressive capitalists who fund their subservient parties for winning elections. It is their investment. As they invest in business for maximization of profit, so also, they also invest in elections to benefit

themselves enormously. And they do get returns out of the investment. Once the party of their choice is saddled in power, they will get more scope to loot on a larger scale, earn more money by raising the prices, by adopting corrupt practices to cheat the workers, peasants and common people. Those who come to the governmental power act as their purchased servants. Of course, they also plunder and embezzle the government funds, which is nothing but public money. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had said that the people fall into this trap because of lack of political consciousness. By offering paltry alms to the poor starving people during the election, the oppressive capitalists later extract much more from the people. This is how politically unconscious people cause immense harm to themselves. Go to the rural areas in Trinamool-ruled West Bengal and you would witness how rampant the corruption is in respect of house building. Suppose a sum of Rs 1 lakh 60 thousand is granted for house-building. They would give Rs 1 lakh to the recipient and appropriate the balance Rs 60,000. The recipient is also reconciled to the practice of giving a sizeable portion of the grant to the agents of the ruling party. To get a job of school teacher, or any other job one has to dish out as high as Rs7-8 lakh, sometimes even 10-15 lakhs, and that too often in advance. There are a lot of irregularities in implementation of the scheme of providing 100-days' work to rural poor. The managers show to have provided 100 days' work in the books. But they pay the labourers wage only for 50 – 60 days. The balance amount goes into their pocket. Poverty has made even the poor village people to be a part of the corruption. College admission against payment has been going on since the time of CPI(M). The reign of the syndicate in the realty and construction business is firmly established. Every shopkeeper or small trader has to pay the extortion money. Even the pavement hawkers have to pay. Everyone is under compulsion of paying a share to the ruling party. This started during the CPI(M) rule. The Trinamool came to power talking of 'change' and 'eradication of corruption'. But they too are continuing the extortion racket with alacrity. This has become an unwritten law.

The TMC Chief Minister has introduced the 'Kanyashree' scheme of giving money to the girl students and has also been

distributing free bicycles to them. There is high-pitched publicity of these schemes. Suppressed under the pitch and dazzle of this propaganda is the fact that West Bengal occupies the number one position in trafficking of women and the second place in the incidents of rape. Is the government not aware as to who are engaged in trafficking? It keeps all the inside information about the households – who votes for whom, who is to be given money, who is to be threatened – it possesses all such information. But it does not know who traffick thousands and thousands of women! When the CPI (M) was in power, these traffickers used to donate funds to the CPI(M). Now they fund the Trinamool Congress. Even those who traffic children also fund the ruling dispensation. The CPI(M) gave license to open over 1000 liquor-shops on the plea of earning more through excise duty. But, in the process, they made the youth addict to drinking. Now, Trinamool Congress government has announced giving license for opening 1000 more liquor-shops. This is also one of their programmes for 'people's welfare'! Following the example set by the CPI(M), they have established party control over everything, starting from police, administration to management of educational institutions, etc. They are freely distributing epithets like Yubashree, Clubshree and many such titles to gain electoral advantage. They are posing as great well-wishers for the minorities, but what have they actually done apart from making some pretensions! The CPI(M) did exactly the same thing. Even today the minorities are afflicted by relatively more poverty and lack of education. According to the Sachar Committee Report, the minorities constitute about 30% of the state's population, but only occupy 6% of government jobs. The situation has not improved much even today. The BJP wants that let TMC display sympathy for the minorities and citing this they will garner votes of the religious majority. TMC on its part wants the BJP to raise anti-minority slogans so that the minorities vote *en masse* for them. This sort of trickery is going on in the name of democratic election. Having been thoroughly disillusioned about and deceived by the ruling party who they once voted to power and then getting swayed by the propaganda wave on the eve of next election, people think that let

the ruling party be replaced by another party and that would beget a change in the condition of their life. This is what has been going on: at the Centre the BJP was brought by ousting the Congress in 2014 election and now there is a cry to dethrone the BJP and bring back the Congress. In our state, the Congress was replaced by the CPI (M), then the TMC was brought in by removing the CPI (M). Now a section of the people is talking of replacing the TMC with the BJP. This trend of thinking is dangerous. The people are time and again replacing one party by another. But they are not thinking for once, by doing so, to what end they themselves are being led to? In the end they have nothing to turn to. If they do not try to understand politics, if they fail to decipher the true character of the parties, if they cannot identify the right party, if they are swayed by the media publicity then they would be deceived again and again.

Is Congress secular and democratic?

Bengal was the citadel of leftism in the country. This city of Kolkata was an eyesore to the British imperialist rulers. Jawaharlal Nehru called it a 'city of nightmare'. In the 1952 elections in Calcutta, except for 3-4 seats, the leftists were victorious in all other constituencies of Kolkata. This was the tradition of Bengal. On the one hand, under the leadership of great Stalin and great Mao Zedong there was victorious march of socialism in different corners of the globe, and on the other hand, the tradition of the revolutionaries from Kshudiram to Netaji Subhashchandra Bose, that is, the tradition of leftism continued to hold sway. First the CPI and then the CPI(M) were in the midst of mass movements till 1966, though they never had the character of a Marxist party. But from 1967, after they came to power, their attitudes started to change. They forsook the path of mass movements and started to lean towards merely election-oriented politics, the politics of coming to the government through appeasement of the bourgeois class. You have witnessed the 34 year long rule of the CPI(M). How have they murdered the workers in Barrackpore, killed the peasants in Nadia, resorted to mass murder and gang-rape in Nandigram, how they tyrannized over Singur! All these were carried out to please the

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Partition was supported by Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, Congress and CPI

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capitalist class in its bid to stay in governmental power. The same CPI(M) and CPI are now going to forge unity with the Congress, putting the stamp of 'secular' and 'democratic' on it. Is Congress secular? Secularism means 'independent of religion' and premised on 'non-recognition of any super-natural entity'. The concept of secular humanism historically arose during the European Renaissance. Feudal monarchy was the ruling political system. The newly emerging bourgeois class awakened the serfs and fought against religion, religious thoughts, religious blindness, propelled by the necessity of ushering in industrial revolution. At this time appeared the concept of humanism free from religious thoughts. A human being will not be known by his religion or by his sect, caste, race or creed or whether he is a man or a woman. He will be known by his humanity. In our country, the Congress never practised secular humanism. What it practised was religion-oriented nationalism. This is not secularism. I shall discuss more on this later. Now Rahul Gandhi and Narendra Modi are competing with each other on who will visit which temples. Such is the secularism of the Congress. The BJP is repeatedly instigating communal riots one after another. The Congress too never lagged behind this earlier. It is the Congress which instigated riots in Rourkella, Bhagalpur and Nellie, Delhi. The CPI, CPI(M) are putting the stamp 'democratic' on the same Congress which imposed Emergency, promulgated black laws like TADA, MISA, Disturbed Area Act, AFSPA, UAPA, etc.

Relation between Gandhiji and Birla

Now the issue of the relation of Gandhiji with the Birlas has been raised. It is true that Gandhiji had relations with the Birlas and other industrialists. But Gandhiji was not dishonest or opportunistic like today's leaders. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh used to say that Gandhiji was honest but his thoughts were incorrect. Gandhiji denied the truth that the society was class-divided, divided into working class and capitalist class, that the thinking of any individual in the society is thinking of a particular class, may be without his being conscious of it. Gandhiji did not accept science as a

tool for searching for truth. He accepted religious thinking. And the Birlas wanted that. It was necessary for the Birlas that religious thinking would prevail in the society; they wanted religious blindness to stay. Birlas wanted the British to leave, and in their place let the political representatives of Tata, Birla and other industrialists come to power, so that their own empire of exploitation becomes more strong and secure. This is what they have now accomplished. They hatched the conspiracy to fulfill this objective keeping Gandhiji in the forefront. Gandhiji himself used to think, 'I am honest, I am religious and devout.' He even said himself, "My claim to hear the Voice of God is no new claim...I was not dreaming at the time I heard the Voice. ...Suddenly the Voice came upon me. I listened, made certain that it was the Voice, ...this was between 11 and 12 midnight. I felt refreshed and began to write the note about it which the readers must have seen. ... But I can say this that not the unanimous verdict of the whole world against me could shake me from the belief that what I heard was the true Voice of God." ⁴ And Gandhiji also said, "God is the creator of both capitalist owners and the workers....I do not bear any ill to the capitalists; I can think of doing them no harm...But I want, by means of suffering, to awaken them to their sense of duty; I want to melt their hearts and get them to render justice to their less fortunate brethren.... based on non-violence and on harmonious co-operation of labour and capital." ⁵ Gandhiji propounded : how much of their "wealth" they utilized for their "legitimate and rational need" and how much of the "remainder wealth" they utilized for their "less fortunate brethren".... "We invite the capitalist to regard himself as trustee for those on whom he depends... Take whatever you need for your legitimate needs and use the remainder for society." ⁶ Gandhiji was guided by this wrong thinking. That is why Saratchandra said, "His main fear is socialism. He is surrounded by the rich and the businessmen. How would he accept socialism? Weakness of Mahatma in this respect cannot be denied." ⁷ Saratchandra also said, "Those who were to be monks have become leaders of the country. That is why, the politics of this country is in such a peril." ⁸ Subhashchandra said, "The capitalists, landlords and

jotedars are claiming themselves to be patriots. Because, they claim they are followers of Gandhiji." ⁹ Gandhiji appeared in the arena of freedom struggle keeping religious thinking at the fore. The bourgeois class wanted to let religious blindness prevail in the soil. They wanted that logical bent of mind, rationality, scientific temper, the faculty to argue and to question does not take root in the society. Why I am poor, why I am unemployed, why I am retrenched — if the people think that the answer to these questions is, 'it is my fate, it is a result of my actions in my previous birth, it is ordained by God', then the capitalist class has nothing to be afraid of. That is why the capitalists need to promote religious thinking vigorously. However, many are not aware that Raja Rammohan Roy, who was the pioneer of the Renaissance movement in our country, said, "The Sanskrit system of education would be best calculated to keep this country in darkness if such had been the policy of the British Legislature. But as the improvement of the native population is the object of Government, it will consequently promote a more liberal and enlightened system of Instruction, embracing mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry and anatomy with other useful sciences. Nor will youths fitted to be better members of society by the Vedanta doctrines which teach them to believe that all visible things have no real existence." ¹⁰ Following the trail blazed by Rammohan came Vidyasagar, to whom everyone of his contemporaries bowed, and who got the title of 'Pundit' because of his mastery over the religious scriptures. He started learning English when he was 22 and came in touch with the western science and knowledge. He said that "Samkhya and Vedanta are false systems of philosophy. There is no truth in them. Hence, let the students to be taught such systems of western philosophy, so that they learn that there is no truth in Samkhya and Vedanta." He said that where the light of western knowledge could reach, the influence of Indian religious scriptures had been weakened. So, what is needed is extensive spread and publicity of advanced western philosophies of renaissance. Vidyasagar did not believe in religious rituals. Ramakrishna once visited Vidyasagar to pay his

respects. He knew that Vidyasagar was a non-believer, did not practise religious rites. He invited Vidyasagar to come to the Dakshineswar temple. But Vidyasagar did not go. Such was the character of Vidyasagar, a great Renaissance personality. Rabindranath, though he believed in God, said that the country which tries to unite the people on the basis of religion would be ruined. Saratchandra said, "All religions are false, age-old superstitions. There is no greater enemy of humanity than this." ¹¹ He further said, "The Vedas are created by men. There is no dearth of falsehood in them." ¹² He also said, "Do I have to carry the Indian tradition just because I happened to be born in India? What if the distinctiveness is lost? One would not be recognized as an Indian; is this the concern? What if that be so — one would still be recognized as a member of the human race! That is no less a matter of honour and pride." ¹³ He said that if one has to talk of ideals, let us not talk of Hindu ideal, Indian ideal, Asian ideal, let us talk world humanity's ideals. These are the thoughts of secular humanism of the Renaissance. Subhashchandra said that religion is a matter of personal belief. There should be no link between politics and religion. Politics will be guided by the logic of science, economics and politics. Nazrul also had the same idea. Many other luminaries of that period expressed the same views. But the national bourgeoisie, by keeping Gandhiji in the forefront, did not let the secular humanist ideals be adopted in the freedom movement. Hence religious blindness, superstitions and obscurantism could not be eradicated. The social revolution or democratization of the society did not happen. As a consequence, in our country, provincialism, casteism, sectarianism, linguistic and regional strifes, religious and communal conflicts are rampant. Emancipation of women has also not been achieved.

Who is a real Hindu – Vivekananda or the RSS?

Taking advantage of this RSS and BJP have come into prominence and are raising the slogans of Indian Hindu traditions. Opposing the historic teachings of Rammohan and Vidyasagar, they are bringing back teaching of Sanskrit, teaching of the

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

There can be only two parties in politics— either of the oppressor or of the oppressed

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Vedas-Vedantas to crush the rationalist scientific temper in avid pursuit of the agenda of clamping fascism.

Are the RSS-BJP following the precepts of Hindu religion? Vivekananda was the last honest representative of Hinduism. We have difference with Vivekananda's thinking. Here, I am referring to what he had said. He said that he respected all religions. He wanted Hinduism, Islam and Christianity to unite and to become one religion. He said, "If I had a son, I would not have given him any religious tutelage except practising concentration, one para of prayer and chanting mantras. Thereafter, in course of growing in age he would have accepted Christ, Buddha or Muhammad, whoever he would have wished to. ...It is very natural that simultaneously with full freedom and without having any conflict, my son could be a Buddhist, my wife a Christian and myself a Muslim." ¹⁴ Is there any similarity between this Vivekananda and the Nagpur-headquartered RSS? Vivekananda said, "I respect Krishna as much as I do Muhammad." Ramakrishna prayed Namaj in a mosque, worshipped in a Church. He said we call water 'Jal', the Muslims say 'Pani', and the Christians say 'water'. This is the difference between Hindu, Islam and Christian religions.

Even earlier we asked, 'Were Chaitanya, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda cowards? They knew that the Babari Masjid had existed. Did they raise the demand for demolition of the Babari Masjid?' Just for getting votes in the elections, the BJP razed such a historical monument into rabbles — just as the Talibans destroyed the Buddha statue at Bamian. If Chaitanya, Ramakrishna are recognized as Hindus, then RSS—BJP cannot be called Hindus. Is it written in the Valmiki Ramayana that the Babari Masjid was built after demolishing Ram's birthplace? Is it in Tulsidas's Ramayana? The people of West Bengal have to ponder over this.

Subhashchandra and Golwalkar

Subhashchandra wrote, "...since the Hindus are majority in India, there is a bogey of Hindu state. These are all utopian thoughts. A small section of self-seeking persons

from their petty individualist, self-centred motive is fomenting disaffection, quarrel and strife among the two communities (Hindu-Muslim) — it is necessary to brand such sections of people as enemies of the freedom movement." ¹⁵ In 1940, he said at Jhargram, "Hindu Mahasabha has sent *sannyasis* and *sannyasinis* to solicit votes with tridents in hand. Every Hindu bends his head by seeing saffron cloth and trident. Hindu Mahasabha has appeared in the scene by taking advantage of and defiling religion.... isolate these traitors from the national life. Do not listen to them. We want that all freedom-loving men and women of the country serve the country unitedly and intently." ¹⁶ And M S Golwalkar, the ideologue and guide of the RSS-BJP heaped praise on Hitler's ostracization, torture and genocide of the Jews, and said, "So, foreign races in Hindustan must either adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence Hindu religion, must entertain no idea but those of the glorification of the Hindu race and culture, i.e. of the Hindu nation and must lose their separate existence to merge in the Hindu race, or may stay in the country, wholly subordinated to the Hindu Nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privileges, far less any preferential treatment not even citizen's rights." ¹⁷ The common people of this country, the people and youth of West Bengal have to decide who is correct — Subhashchandra or Golwalkar? Whom they would follow? The BJP is following prescriptions of the RSS in spreading the fire of anti-Muslim hatred, in the instigation of riots, in killing the dalits and the people from the minority community. Hindu *rashtra* (state) as per the doctrine of the RSS-BJP means that not only the Muslims, but the *dalits* too would be the subjects of upper caste people. Do you know that the RSS, the mentor of the BJP was against the anti-British-imperialism freedom struggle and labeled the freedom fighters as "reactionary" and "traitors"? This is not our concocted allegation; listen to what Golwalkar said, "The theories of territorial nationalism and of common danger, which formed the basis for our concept of nation, had deprived us of the positive and inspiring content of our real Hindu Nationhood and made many of the

'freedom movements' virtually anti-British movements. Anti-Britishism was equated with patriotism and nationalism. This reactionary view has had disastrous effects upon the entire course of the freedom struggle, its leaders and the common people." ¹⁸ So, if the yardstick of Golwalkar is applied, right from Deshbandhu Chittaranjan, Lala Lajpat, Tilak, Bipin Pal to Kshudiram, Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Surya Sen, Binoy-Badal-Dinesh, Asfaquallah Khan, Pritilata, Subramania Bharati and all the other freedom-fighters and revolutionaries were "reactionaries", "traitors", "enemies of the country". Because, none of them fought to establish a Hindu *rashtra*, but to establish a free, united India. Will the people of this country, the people and youth of West Bengal accept these arrogant utterings of the RSS chief and come under the banner of the RSS-BJP?

On the other side, the national bourgeoisie politically opposed the line of armed revolutionary struggle, keeping Gandhiji in the forefront. Then the people of our country could not grasp the revolutionism of Kshudiram, Bhagat Singh and Subhashchandra, could not judge, could not understand why the Gandhites did not respect Bhagat Singh and Kshudiram, why the Gandhites forced Subhashchandra to resign from the Presidentship of the Congress, and ultimately expelled him from the Congress — these were not in the knowledge of the people. Because the newspapers controlled by the capitalists-imperialists did not disseminate these news. Why did Gandhiji say he did not want freedom if it would have come through armed revolution? In whose interest were these words uttered? These were uttered in the interest of the Tatas-Birlas. If there was revolution, there would have been insurrection of the peasants and workers preventing the Indian national bourgeoisie to come to power. Hence, not revolution, but instead what was emphasized on were non-violence, bargaining and negotiations with the British, and religious thinking and spiritualism acting as guide side by side. Such was the kind of the Gandhite Swadeshi movement. Taking advantage of this, the British could convince the Muslim community that Gandhiji was a Hindu *sannyasi* (ascetic). So, what would be the

future of the Muslims then? In this way they could make the demand of Pakistan be raised.

The background of Partition

I would like to place before you the background of partition of the country. The Second World War was just about to be ended, when under the leadership of great Stalin the Red Army was on the verge of inflicting decisive defeat on Hitler's Germany. Eastern Europe was about to be liberated. The Red Army had reached the Japanese frontier in the east. Such was the context marked by victorious march of liberation forces. In India armed uprising of August 1942 had taken place. The 'Azad Hind Fauj' was advancing in the east under the leadership of Subhashchandra. This news had reached the country. Throughout the country, there was a strong emotional current in favour of armed struggle. The Gandhites were cornered. In 1944, the naval forces in Bombay broke out in rebellion. The whole country was on the brink of armed uprising — such was the situation. The British imperialists and the Indian capitalists both became mortally afraid that revolution would break out. At that juncture, the British rulers conspired to stage a Hindu-Muslim riot in 1946, and the Nehru-Patel group pressurized Gandhiji to accept partition. Gandhiji personally did not want partition. He, who had all along opposed Subhashchandra, regretfully said in his last days that had Subhashchandra been there, partition of the country would not have taken place. The country was split into three parts. I have already told that Gandhiji was an honest man, but his thinking process was wrong. Bourgeois outlook and bourgeois class interest influenced his mind unknowingly. Undoubtedly, this has greatly harmed the country. But what I want to stress is why could this happen. Throughout the freedom movement the role of the CPI (from which the CPI(M) had split later) has been condemnable. They opposed Subhashchandra and supported Gandhiji. They opposed the 1942 August uprising and supported the British. They branded Subhashchandra as the agent of Japan. Partition was supported not only by Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and the Congress, but also by the undivided CPI. Were

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

All great men had greeted socialism

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these merely mistakes? When Indian national capitalism has given birth to monopoly capital and multinationals, has attained the imperialist stage and turned hegemonistic towards South Asia, the CPI and CPI(M) are still harping on the theory of anti-imperialist anti-feudal people's democratic revolution and are thereby confusing their cadres. Is this also just a mistake? All these are but signatures of their non-Marxist, social democratic character. This type of politics has today brought them down to such a level that they have to lean on one or another bourgeois party.

How many of the families of the Tatas or Birlas had laid down their lives in the freedom struggle? How many went to jail? It is the youth from the families of common people who became martyrs. Hundreds of young boys and girls went to prison, were shot dead in police firing, and sacrificed their careers. In spite of that, why the situation of the country is so dismal today? Is this the type of freedom that Kshudiram or Bhagat Singh, Surya Sen, Pritilata, Asfaquallah, Chandrasekhar Azad and others had wanted? Did Bagha Jatin want this kind of freedom? Did they dream of such a free country? Why did we reach such a situation? One reason for this is that the bourgeois leadership of the national movement wanted the people to remain ignorant, blind, foolish but be obedient to the bourgeois leaders. Regrettably, such kind of thinking was prevalent among a sizeable section of the people as well. 'Let the leaders decide what is to be done. We are small fry, why do we have to bother about big issues?' — this was their thinking.

Why can the people be deceived time and again

Remaining ignorant and blind, and forming impression about this or that party based on media news and then decide which party is to be supported are proving to be deleterious. The people say that the leaders deceive. Take it for argument's sake that we would also deceive. But why should we be able to deceive, even if we want to? Why are the people letting themselves to be deceived? This is because they are not using their intellect, they are not using their sense of judgement. The proverb "whoever goes to Lanka becomes a Ravan" (meaning whoever comes to power becomes a rogue) is false.

Rama, Lakshman, Sita, Hanuman — all went to Lanka but none of them became like Ravana or a rogue. Sita's travails were because she could not identify Ravana. Ravana had come in disguise of a 'sadhu' (ascetic) and so could dupe Sita. The present-day leaders also disguise themselves as patriots and servants of the people. Hence, you must be able to identify the leaders, identify the parties as what they are. You must understand the politics. These leaders address huge meetings. Their photos and speeches are prominently covered by the media. They shed crocodile tears over the wretched condition of the people. They claim that they have been serving the people for so long and so efficiently that all of you have been brought to the doors of heaven. Very soon they would guide you to heaven itself. These kinds of posing and bluffs you must be able to detect. That is why Comrade Shibdas Ghosh told again and again that the people must develop political consciousness. They must develop class consciousness. 'People', 'country' — such words are meaningless. The people of the country are divided into two classes — the rich and the poor, the owners and the workers, the exploiters and the exploited. Politics and parties are also like that. A party must either be a party of the owner capitalists or a party of the workers, a party of the exploiters or a party of the exploited, a party of the rich or a party of the poor. It is either an election-oriented party craving only for power, or a party for mass movements and revolutionary class struggle. Interest of the country, interest of the whole people — these are deceptive and false words. Are you for the exploiters or for the exploited? This is how you should judge. You have to judge on the basis of this approach.

India and the whole world are passing through a dangerous time. (because of the heavy rain Comrade Provash Ghosh asked whether he should continue with his speech. The audience responded with a resounding 'yes'). After the debacle suffered by socialism first in Soviet Union and then in China, some confused intellectuals as also a group of motivated persons in our country have started propagating that capitalism based on private ownership is the only way. That socialist ownership cannot solve the problems has been proved, they contend. Such publicity is current, to confuse the people. I would like to

stress here that any society goes through the stages of birth, development and decay and it may also go through changes. Look at history. In the distant past there was the primitive society, where there was no individual ownership, no private property. This society went through a transformation and thus came the slave society divided between the slaves and slave owners. It lasted for several thousand years. This gave way to feudal society with monarchs and subjects, feudal lords on the one side and the serfs on the other side. After this came the bourgeois democracy based on private ownership. Its advent was in Europe. During its rising period of the nascent bourgeoisie which appeared in course of conducting a revolt against monarchial system by organizing the serfs, private ownership played a progressive role. The industrial revolution came about on the basis of individual ownership. It is on the basis of individual ownership that handicrafts and production by artisans were replaced by big manufacturing industry and production of commodities increased manifold — all these happened out of the necessity of social development. In the feudal society, the serfs could not move without the permission of the feudal lords. Their transformation into free labourers, and emergence of concepts like freedom of thought, right to express free opinions — all these came along with the growth of the capitalist system. Fight against religion was also waged based on industrial revolution. If this fight against religion was not conducted in right earnest, it would have not been possible to eradicate the then prevailing blind belief that the king was the representative of God. Unless, that was done, monarchy could not have been overthrown. To meet the social necessity of that time came scientific thinking, logical thought process and rational approach. Along with it came the slogan of liberty, equality and

fraternity. After advancing some steps, following the laws of history, individual ownership brought crisis in the economic system. The question began to be raised who was the creator of wealth in society. Bourgeois economist Ricardo showed that it is human labour that creates wealth. Marx said that if labour creates wealth, why shouldn't the labourer be the owner of wealth? Why should the working people be immersed in poverty? Wherefrom does the capital of the capitalists come? It is the worker who creates capital, not the capitalists. Money has come as a medium of exchange for commodities or wealth. Apart from this, money has no other intrinsic value. Marx mathematically proved that the profit of the capitalists is the surplus value which is nothing but unpaid surplus labour. The capitalists make the workers labour for more number of hours than what they are paid for. The extra time for which the worker puts in his labour creates a value (surplus value) which the owner appropriates. Till today no bourgeois economist has been able to challenge and disprove this.

Capitalism based on private ownership has given birth to imperialism

In course of development of the capitalist system, big capital was born out of small capital. Later, from big capital grew monopoly capital by swallowing up small and middle capital. Lenin said that monopoly capital signalled the era of decay of capitalism, the era of moribund capitalism. Look at the world today; in what peril and turmoil it is in under the hegemony of monopoly capital. The Oxfam International Report says that 1% rich persons of the world owns 82% of the wealth. If the population of the world is 6.5 billion, then daily earning of 3 billion people is Rs. 165 and that of 1 billion is Rs. 82. Such is the economic destitution of 4 billion people. And they are the buyers in

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SUCI(C) calls arrest of Human Rights Activists a fascist move

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) issued the following statement on 29 August 2018:

The most undemocratic raids and arrests of the senior human rights and social activists by the Maharashtra police-administration steered by the BJP on the plea of their involvement in the Bhima-Koregaon incident is a fascistic move to suppress the voice of protest and create fear among the protesting people and is, therefore, highly condemnable. We demand immediate and unconditional release of those human rights and social activists.

Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Only revolution, and not election, can overthrow the exploitative capitalist system

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the capitalist market. These people have no purchasing power. So the capitalist market is severely squeezed. And so for grabbing share of this ever shrinking market, the imperialists-capitalists would be logged in armed conflicts and wars. In this ever-accentuating market crisis, many small, intermediate and even relatively big industrialists are facing ruination. Many monopoly houses and MNCs are buying up others. Some are merging together. The national capital of the past has crossed the national boundary to become multinationals. They are out to loot other countries, forsaking the economic interest of their own country. Apart from the interest of maximizing profit, they do not bother for any other interest, whether of the country or of falling market.

What is this crisis of market economy? Every day you read in the newspapers that after the sad debacle of socialism, America proclaimed that it was now a unipolar world and it is the supreme power in that world. Then America brought in globalization to break down the hitherto existing trade and tariff barriers to grab the markets of other countries. Today the same America is telling that because of globalization, others are capturing their home market. So, they are saying no to globalization and raising instead the slogan that America is for Americans! American youths have no jobs, millions are unemployed. After restoring capitalism through counter-revolution, capitalist-imperialist China has emerged as a strong competitor. On the other side, there is already contradiction centring around market with imperialist European Union, Japan and Russia. Just a few years back there was a huge countrywide movement in America. For seven months, lakhs and lakhs of young boys and girls carried on with 'Occupy Wall Street' movement. Wall Street is the financial headquarters of American capital. They raised the slogans 'Down with capitalism-Imperialism', 'Down with Globalization'. A tremor of fear went through the American capitalist state. Therefore, America is now saying that it would restrict the import of foreign goods. The American industry is dying, and the number of jobless people is on the rise. USA has closed down the Mexican border and is detaining the refugees in an

inhuman manner, so that the poor people from Mexico could not enter USA looking for jobs.

It is capitalism based on private ownership that has precipitated this crisis. Market economy has given rise to market crisis. Private ownership based capitalism has given birth to imperialism. Who had looted India and Africa? Imperialism! Where had this imperialism come from? Is it not capitalism based on private ownership that in course of development has given birth to imperialism? Has socialism occupied any country? Has it looted any country? Who had triggered the First World War? Who started the Second World War? Who gave birth to fascism in Italy and Germany? The answers to all of these are only one. It is capitalism based on private ownership. Can there be any comparison between capitalism and socialism?

There are millions and millions of unemployed in the world. Millions and millions are being retrenched. Who is responsible for that? Is it not capitalism-imperialism based on private ownership which has destroyed Iraq and Libya? Who has destroyed Afghanistan? Who has instigated war in Syria? Is it not capitalism-imperialism based on private ownership? Can anyone deny this?

Where is the slogan of liberty-equality-fraternity – a slogan that the rising bourgeoisie once raised during the days of its advent? One lives on the pavements, another in a palatial mansion — is this equality? Can there be equality between a jute mill worker and the owner of the mill? Can there be equality between the Tatas and the Tata Steel workers, when there is such an enormous economic disparity? Where is fraternity? It is capitalism which is stoking the fire of war between countries, strife between nationalities, hatred between races. National jingoism, racial hatred, parochialism, religious hatred are rampant throughout the world – these are the hallmark of 'fraternity' in dying capitalism today! And where is liberty? The freedom is for the capitalists to freely exploit and plunder! And they also enjoy freedom to beat and shoot at workers and poor people if the latter rise in protest! This is where the concept of liberty has been reduced to in private ownership- based capitalism today!

Crisis of human essence is all embracing

Look at the world today; everywhere there is fast erosion of human essence and human quality. There was allegation of debauchery against a past President of the United States. There are several allegations of adultery and sexual promiscuity against the present President of USA. Such is the character of the leader of the biggest monopoly capitalist state of the world. In USA, incidents of rape are rampant. Of late, there have been several incidents of indiscriminate firing and killing of children in the school by trespassing miscreants. On the open street, one is shooting and killing another person. These armed miscreants are mostly mentally deranged. But gun licenses are so freely given that even such psycho-killers also manage to procure firearms. Why is it so? Because, the rifle and pistol traders had funded Trump's election and hence are extracting their pound of flesh.

Global warming has been alarming. Burning of fossil fuels — coal and petroleum — is a causative factor. Scientists have been issuing warnings again and again. Ozone layer is getting depleted, polar ice is melting, sea level is rising and consequentially global temperature is rising. So fast is rising the water level that starting from Bay of Bengal, all the seas and oceans are slowly advancing and destroying coastal lands. This is happening because of the recklessness of the capitalist owners in polluting atmosphere in multifarious ways particularly by drilling for oil by the petro-behemoths without caring for rudimentary precautionary measures. But USA is not paying any heed, because the giant oil companies have funded Trump's election. This is happening in every country including India. The parliamentary parties look after the interest of the capitalists and in return get funding from them. The leaders also make money. The MPs and MLAs have crores of rupees in the bank both within as well as outside the country. And yet they feign to be servants of the people.

Capitalism is launching another deadly attack. Once capitalism upheld the ideals of humanism. Now it is killing all human values, human essence and finer senses and giving birth to fascism. Human civilization

advanced from the stage of barbarism and in course of that, ideas of morality, conscience, and sense of values emerged in the society. This is what human values and essence are. Instinct tells me to do something evil but conscience restricts me. Conscience tells me that I cannot do certain things, I cannot think in certain ways as it would be inhuman to do so. I am after all a human being. I may die starving, but I cannot act in an inhuman way. Such sense once prevailed in society, but is now being destroyed.

Why is so much rape, killings and such other brutalities taking place in the society? Are these happening without any reason? No. The ruling party is pushing the youth to go astray. Once disgorged of conscience and saner senses, there would be no protest, no resistance. So, let the youth go on drinking, commit heinous acts and indulge in indecency. These are the dehumanized young boys who tease and stalk the girls, forcibly drag them to dark place for outraging their modesty. A six month old baby is raped. Even in the animal world you will not find this. Would these things happen if any human value, any moral sense or ethics exist? Now the only aim is to somehow make money by snatching or extortion or through construction syndicates or by lynching. Even parents are choked to death by the children to usurp the property. Old parents are driven out to the streets. Fatherhood and motherhood are utterly disgraced and insulted. The relation between husband and wife is vitiated by mistrust and suspicion. There is no peace in conjugal life. There will be peace only if there is human essence, if there is ethics and morality. Who has been creating such robots bereft of rudimentary human quality? Who has been destroying love, affection, kindness, gentleness and all other finer emotions. It is capitalism based on private ownership. This ethical-moral crisis has gripped the whole world. Shakespeare's Europe, Milton's Europe, Berkeley's Europe, Europe of Bacon, Spinoza, Locke, Hobbs, Kant, Feuerbach does not exist anymore. Even the Europe of Romain Rolland, Einstein, Bernard Shaw and Russell is not there anymore. In our country also, there is a well-nit ploy to erase the names of Rammohan, Vidyasagar, Vivekananda, Rabindranath,

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

By maligning leftism and deviating from it, CPI (M) paved way for BJP to creep in

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Saratchandra, Nazrul, Subhashchandra, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan, Jotiba Phule, Subramania Bharati, Bhagat Singh and Jyotiporosad from public memory. There is no cultivation of these luminaries. It is only our Party which cultivates their life and struggle with all seriousness. Vidyasagar's death anniversary was on 29 July last. 11 August which is approaching is the day of Kshudiram's martyrdom. We are observing these occasions with due solemnity. Do the other parties have any concern for preserving the legacy of these revered personalities? The BJP and Trinamool Congress are competing with each other over observance of Ramnavani and Hanuman Jayanti. All these are with an eye on the elections! The CPI(M) also does not cultivate at all these great personalities.

Revered luminaries welcomed Soviet socialism

Look at the other side. Socialism based on social ownership was established in a backward state like Russia after overthrowing capitalism which was based on private ownership. Soviet socialism proclaimed that there would be no unemployment, no retrenchment and job loss. The socialist state introduced free education for all up to the University level, and free medical care for all. There were many hospitals, doctors and nurses, and many schools, colleges with adequate number of qualified teachers in the villages and the towns. The Socialist Soviet Russia used to distribute electricity, water supply and fuel free of cost to all households. Housing and food were provided at an extremely subsidized rate. It introduced seven hour working day instead of eight hour day and was on its way to introducing six-hour working day. It announced that in future it will introduce five-hour working day. The remaining leisure hours the workers, peasants and common people would spend for studies, for singing and playing musical instruments, staging dramas and watching movies. Countless libraries, play houses, movie theatres were established in rural and urban areas. The workers enjoyed 15 days paid leave. In vacation time, they would stay in sanatoria by the seaside or in the

hills. Socialist Russia did away with the discrimination between men and women. The male and female workers were paid the same salary. Women used to get 2 years paid maternity leave after child birth. When they resumed work, arrangements for crèche were there to look after the babies or toddlers. The state used to provide food and clothes for young boys and girls. Begging and prostitution were totally abolished. Socialist Soviet Russia provided free training in athletics and sports for students and youth. Because of this, it became the topmost medal winning country in the Olympics. Socialist Russia undertook all responsibility for providing livelihood for doctors, teachers, professors, literary persons, artists, scientists, etc.

In the field of science, socialist Russia came to occupy the topmost position in the world. Many of the Soviet scientists received Nobel prize. Socialist Russia was the first country to send a man to space. In socialist Russia, only workers (intellectuals were also reckoned as workers) and peasants could vote and be elected. The elected candidate had to submit report of work done; if it was not satisfactory, the voters could recall the candidate. In socialist Russia, nobody needed to spend any money in the law courts. The government bore the entire cost of the legal process. Witnessing all this Rabindranath said that his visit to Russia was a pilgrimage. He wrote to poet Amiya Chakraborty, "I would see the shape of a new era for mankind in that hermitage" (Soviet Union).¹⁹ He made another valuable remark, "...This new Russia is engrossed in an arduous practice of removing a death missile from the ribs of human civilization — that which is known as 'greed'." ²⁰ Rabindranath was not a Marxist, but he praised Soviet socialism. Romain Rolland, another respected thinker of that time said, "If it (Soviet Russia) is crushed, it would no longer be the proletariat of the world alone who would be enslaved, but all liberty, social or individual;...the world will be thrown several stages behind ²¹ Bernard Shaw commented: "There is only one country in the world where you can enjoy real freedom — it is Russia where great Stalin is still alive." ²² And what did Subhashchandra say about the Soviet Union? "During the twentieth

century, Russia has enriched the culture and civilization of the world through her achievement in proletarian revolution, proletarian Government and proletarian culture."²³ Subhashchandra wrote to revolutionary Barin Ghosh: "Our goal is socialism and after that communism." Bhagat Singh on the eve of embracing the gallows announced socialism and communism as his aim. Have the intellectuals of today, who worship private capital ever considered in what esteem these revered personalities and revolutionaries held socialism, and how eloquent they were in its praise? The great men of yesteryears were so inspired by Soviet Union. But then came the tragic debacle — which is very painful.

Again, Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Shibdas Ghosh—every great leader had cautioned that such a disaster could occur. Because, even after revolution in a country, the entire population does not become Marxist or communist overnight. Remnants of the culture, desires, mentality of the old society stay on in their mind. For example, in the hoary past, patriarchal society gave way to patriarchal society. But notwithstanding all tall slogans of democracy, rights of women, etc., male domination persists. In our country, several thousand year old caste prejudices are still in existence. Attraction towards *sati* is still there. Widow remarriage has not won a respectable position in the society. These prejudices run in the very sinews of human beings. Millions of people have supported revolution and socialism. There was tremendous emotional appreciation for communism. Emotion is one aspect, but to accept Marxism, in the thought process, in taste and culture is an altogether different thing. And this is what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh realized in 1948. He said that during the days of the French Revolution, individualism based on private ownership was progressive. Then it lent man a character and personality. But after private ownership turned reactionary, individualism also became reactionary. It makes a person self-centred and oblivious of any social responsibility. That is why at the earliest stage of Party building, he said that our leaders must not only be free from private property, but

free of private property mental complex in the thought process, in conduct and behaviour, in husband-wife relation, in attitude towards the children. All aspects of their life must be free from the influence of individualism. When revolution took place in Russia and China, individualism had still somewhat progressive a role. In Russia, capitalism was still not consolidated and in China, capitalism was in a very nascent stage. So, revolution could progress on the basis of the ideal that 'interest of revolution is prior, individual interest is secondary'. Similar thought was prevalent during the period of our Swadeshi movement like "we are all for everybody, each of us is for the other." Such slogans did work in those days. Showing this, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that so long as revolutionary battles are being waged or so long as socialist economic reconstruction is going on, the ideal that 'the interest of revolution is prior, individual interest is subordinate', played a progressive role. But after the socialist system becomes strong, even after capitalism perishes to a large extent in the economic sphere, private property mental complex persists in the super-structure, in the cultural sphere, in the realm of ideas. The private property mental complex gives rise to socialist individualism. As long as great Stalin was alive, socialist individualism could not raise its ugly head. But it was gathering strength. In 1952, a year before his demise, great Stalin realized this danger. This was evident in his last speech. But he did not live to conduct this battle. Great Mao Zedong also realized this danger in the later part of his life and started the battle. But, by then, he was also much aged and ill. He raised the slogan, 'bombard the headquarters.' Those who were once his compatriots, Liu Shaoqi, Lin Biao, Deng Xiao Ping had become the capitalist roaders. He launched the great Cultural Revolution to resist the attack of capitalism. But he could not succeed. Death intervened to thwart his attempt. So the conspiracy of the defeated capitalist forces within socialism aided and abetted by the conspiracy of external capitalist forces led to the downfall of socialism. But this is not the end of the world.

We have to take lessons from

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Powered by Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, our Party is making bold strides ahead

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these. It has been demonstrated that only socialism can illumine the path to progress, and it has already done so. Those who will carry out the anti-capitalist revolution in future would remain vigilant right from day one what crisis socialism could face. As long as capitalism-imperialism rules, unemployment, starvation deaths and death due to lack of medical care will rise. Love, affection, kindness and compassion will be destroyed. Rape and torture of women will become rampant. Wars will proliferate. Racial hatred will rise. Can we let these things to continue? Only socialist revolution following the path of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought will save us from this situation. I would ask you to go through the pages of history. To establish the Islam religion, the Christian religion, the Hindu religion, the Buddhist religion, the Jain religion, etc., struggles were conducted for hundreds of years. Those who founded these religions started with only a handful of followers. This is history. Starting from the Renaissance till the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution, it took about three hundred fifty years to establish bourgeois democracy. And the slave system, the feudal system, and capitalism all are based on private property which has been in existence for several thousand years. Compared to that, socialism got only 70 years to replace individual ownership by socialist ownership, social ownership. Within this short period, it was able to demonstrate what the new civilization is, how emancipation of man from exploitation can be made possible. This is the only path. So, there is no reason to lose hope. What would you gain by being despondent? Will that save you from this crisis?

So, my appeal to you is to follow what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had said that only revolution, and not election, can overthrow the exploitative capitalist system. For this, we need preparation. We participate in election out of compulsion. Lenin's teaching is that, as long as people would take part in elections and are not positively disillusioned about that, the revolutionaries would have to participate in the election to show convincingly that elections would

achieve nothing. And if the revolutionaries win seats in Parliament or assembly, they would reverberate the voice of people's struggles, of their protest against growing misery and penury, raise protests on behalf of the poor — Comrade Shibdas Ghosh also gave us this teaching. Look at our Party — so many of you are sitting in the rains. It is you who have given donations to make preparations for holding the meeting, and you have come to this meeting spending your own money. Why are you sitting being drenched in this rain? Wherefrom did you get this strength? What gave this strength to the Party? Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought is the source of this strength. People's committees with poor people need to be built up in the villages. You must take initiative in building up such committees. Build up *krishak* and *khetmazdur* (peasants and agricultural labourers) committees; build up workers' organizations in industrial areas on the basis of revolutionary ideology, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Build up students', youth's, and women's organizations. Anywhere you see injustice, whether in trains or buses or in the localities, stand up and voice your protest, even if you are alone. And everywhere have discussions on politics. First understand the class characters of parties yourselves and then make others understand. Whether you are instructed or not, build up mass and class struggles. It is of no use to blame your fate sitting quietly at home. Standing firmly on your feet, fight for the interest of the exploited people on the basis of proletarian outlook and politics. As it is, you are dying a slow death. Better die honourably by fighting. Build up volunteer corps with the young people, who are ready to fight against injustice, to fight to protect the honour of women and of the elderly people. Hold up before them the character of Subhashchandra, the character of Kshudiram, the character of Bhagat Singh, the character of Vidyasagar, and the call of Saratchandra, Nazrul, Rabindranath and Phule. Why do we observe their anniversaries? Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has taught us that if you do not learn from them, you will not be able to become a communist. They were the most

noble people of their respective periods. Learn from their characters and advance yourself. Advancing one stage further along this path, you will be able to acquire a communist character. We want to wake up the youth. We want to awaken human quality. It is these awakened people who will fight against capitalism, against exploitation.

And save the children. I have told the comrades and am telling you also. Students of class four, five, and six are consuming alcohol. Can you think of it! Was it like this when you were young in age? Now they see blue films on T.V. and mobile. The children are falling victims of sexual abuse. I told our Party workers, repeatedly appealed to their conscience. Now I am renewing the same appeal to you. Please spend one hour in the morning on Sundays and holidays playing with the kids in the neighbourhood, arrange parades with them, make them know about Vidyasagar, Rabindranath, Saratchandra; make them know about Subhash Bose, Bhagat Singh, Kshudiram. Familiarize them with the great men. Awaken their conscience, and human essence. Civilization is in danger. Imperialism-capitalism is destroying the entire human race. We used to read in history that there was an era when men eat men — it is called cannibalism. This capitalism does not eat men directly but is killing men all the way. Capitalism kills men by hunger, kills them by denying medical treatment, by pushing them to suicide. And this capitalism is killing finer human senses and qualities. Modern capitalism has turned into modern cannibalism. These are destroyers of human civilization. Raise your head high against these killers.

With this objective, the great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh has built up this Party through a hard and arduous struggle. He told us to win the people with reason, with intellect, love, and decency and not by force, threat or violence. Other parties depend on muscle flexing, brute power, violence, gagging voice, offering money and lure of privileges, permits, promotions, transfer to the place of choice, association with extortion rackets and syndicates to make people rally behind them. This is how the CPI (M) ruled for over 33 years. It has destroyed the honour and prestige of

leftism. Taking advantage of this, the RSS-BJP are creeping in. Way back in 1969, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh showed rare wisdom by giving the warning that Jan Sangha (now BJP) was waiting in the wings. He warned, 'You are maligning leftism. Taking advantage of this the RSS and the Jana Sangha will make inroads and enter.' This is exactly what has happened. On the other side, anti-Trinamool Congress mentality is now developing. The media once created a hype in favour of the Trinamool Congress. All were crazy about the TMC. Now a section is raising the slogan - to defeat Trinamool we want the BJP, not the CPI(M). In the past, a person like Shyamaprasad Mukherjee could not find any ground in Bengal. Then there was a surge of revolutionism of Subhash Bose and others. Now what a sad state we are in!

CPI(M), CPI never practised true Marxism.

We had told the leaders of CPI and CPI(M) that you are calculating electoral arithmetic. But today there is a contradiction and conflict among the monopolists over market. There is also a contradiction between national capital and regional capital. There is contradiction between the national bourgeois parties, and there is contradiction between the parties of national capital and parties of regional capital. Thus, there is no unity among the bourgeoisie. This is the opportune time to strengthen the movements of the workers, peasants, students, youth and women. Come, tread along this path of struggle - this was our call to the CPI(M). But they did not respond. They have maligned leftism and made way for TMC to come. Now I am hearing that the CPI (M) State Secretary has said that one group of their party members are joining the TMC to oppose the BJP, and another group is switching to the BJP to oppose the TMC! They have indeed trained their cadres in Marxism and leftism in so excellent a way that their party members are going over to the TMC and the BJP! They have become so strong after ruling for over 34 years! What kind of a party it is! Is there any cultivation of ideology! Is there any struggle? Is there any principle? Why has this crisis happened? Probe

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's speech

Only socialism can save us and lead us to a new society free from exploitation

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into it. If you do this, you will have to seek guidance from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings. These parties did not cultivate true Marxism. In the name of Marxism, they are moving with out and out non-Marxist thoughts. They formed a government in 1977 by combining with the Janata Party at the Centre -- the Janata party which had in its fold the RSS-BJP. The CPI(M) forged unity with them. In 1977, when Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister, did they not help the BJP to increase its strength? When V P Singh was the Prime Minister then both the BJP and the CPI(M) worked hand in hand to support him. At this Kolkata Maidan, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Jyoti Basu addressed a meeting together. The CPI(M) ran the Kolkata Corporation administration with the support of the BJP. In this way, have they not helped the BJP to increase its strength? Have they ever fought against communalism? Have they prepared the mindset of their party workers for that? At one time, they used to get many votes in the refugee areas. Then how is it that the RSS is penetrating into these areas? Because they did not free the people from communal thoughts.

I am again reiterating that the undivided Bengal was the pride of India. Renaissance started from here. Revolutionary trend in the Swadeshi Movement was initiated here. Entire India looked up to undivided Bengal. West Bengal is a truncated part of that Bengal. Following this tradition of undivided Bengal, Bangladesh, which is a Muslim-dominated country, established independent Bangladesh by fighting against the Muslim state of Pakistan. They have that glory. As observed by Saratchandra and Subhaschandra, those who raise the slogans of Hindu state and religion-based state need to be branded as the enemies of the country. They need to be told that Nepal is a Hindu state. So, annex Nepal to India. If you raise this demand, Nepalese people will be up in arms against you. Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, UAE are all Islamic states. Have they become one country? Can a state be based on religion? Talking of *gomata* (holy mother cow), they have banned cow slaughter, and are killing innocent poor people, falsely accusing them of cow-slaughter. Leave us out. Listen to what Vivekananda has said. You will get it in Volume Nine of the book

“Swami Vivekananda Bani O Rachana (Collected Works of Vivekananda).

In the Guru-Shishya Samvad (dialogue between the teacher and the disciple), it is described that when Vivekananda was sitting with his disciples, members of ‘cow protection association’ came to him for seeking donation. Vivekananda asked them, “What is your objective?” They said they were working for saving the cow-mothers from the butchers. Vivekananda asked them, “What is the source of your finance?” They replied that they raised funds through donation. Then Vivekananda said, “Central India is in the grip of severe famine. Indian government has published a list of 9 lakh people who have died of starvation. What steps your association has taken to help the affected people there?” They replied that they did not offer any help to famine victims. They were only helping to protect the cow-mothers. Vivekananda said, “You are not helping your fellow countrymen who are dying but raising donations for protecting cow-mothers?” They replied that people were dying because this famine had been caused due to their wrongdoings in the past. As they sowed, so they reaped. Vivekananda was much enraged at their replies. But he suppressed his anger and said, “I have no sympathy for those associations or organizations that do not empathize with the suffering human beings, who do not arrange for some morsel for their starving brethren and save their life but, instead, distribute heaps of grains to the birds and animals. I do not believe that by such acts, any good is done to the society. If one pleads that people are dying because of their past sins, then making efforts for doing anything in this world would deem to be an abortive exercise.” Vivekananda further said, “Then, it can be said about your work that the cow-mothers are being transported to the slaughter-house and killed because of their past sins. We have nothing to do for that.” The Pracharak (slightly taken aback) replied, “What you say is correct, but our scriptures tell the cow is our mother”. Vivekananda replied laughing, “I fully realize that cow is our mother. Otherwise who would give birth to such accomplished offspring!” Then Swamiji (Vivekananda) turned to his disciples and said that “it bears ample proof as to how the country is degenerating.

Do you, the Hindus, see what low has your ...cow vigilantism stooped to?” So, the talk of cow vigilantism today has no connection with religion. What punishment would the leaders of the RSS-BJP prescribe for Vivekananda?

The situation in the whole country is terrible. From this meeting, I am appealing to the CPI(M)-CPI that election-oriented politics has brought you down to this state. In 1952, 1960, 1966 people had respect for you. Your workers had a standard. Where has that standard disappeared today! I am telling the CPI(M) that you have killed 161 leaders and workers of our Party. But even today our Party is standing up. Two workers of our Party have lost their eye-sight in the movement against the TMC. Just a few days back how brutally our workers were beaten up in front of the Rajbhavan? We have no MLA or MP. Is our Party becoming weaker? I am also informing you that we have won in the panchayat election in Moipith in South 24 Paraganas defeating a CPI(M)-TMC combine. The CPI(M) and the TMC also got united against us also at Baruipara in Nadia District. I asked the CPI(M) leadership through a letter what is happening. They didn't answer. Fearing that we shall win even one seat in a village, the TMC - CPI(M)- BJP were united against us in different districts. Recently there was election in the Hastings Jute Mills Cooperative of Hooghly. There the TMC, CPI(M) and BJP combined against us. This is a class-unity. SUCI (Communist) is an enemy in the eyes of all who are subservient to bourgeois class interest. Our Party has no MP or MLA. There is no publicity of ours in the media. This meeting place is soaked in rain. You have come from a long distance, overcoming many difficulties. Thousands of people are listening to the speech in the midst of rain. Mothers with their children in their arms are listening. But, you will not find any news in the radio, TV or newspapers. If at all there is any coverage, it would be relegated to the corner of a page. But have they been able to impede us? Can advancement of any revolutionary party be obstructed in this way? Today we are observing the Memorial Day in 22 states of India. We are getting many honest youth, students, workers, peasants, women and middle class people. What is our

strength? The strength is great Marxism-Leninism Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Our Party would continue to make bold strides ahead. This Bengal will have to be woken up again. The youth of this country will have to be woken up. The parliamentary parties are leading entire India to ruination. On one side is Capitalism –Fascism, on the opposite side is the way towards Socialist Revolution. What I said earlier, it is a question of either life or death. There is nothing in between. If capitalism remains, death is inevitable, destruction is inevitable. Only socialism can save us and lead to a new society free from exploitation, a new higher vibrant youthful life. We have to take the pledge of making anti-capitalist socialist revolution successful. I end here today.

Long live revolution
Long live Comrade Shibdas Ghosh,
the great Marxist thinker
Long live SUCI (Communist)
Long live Proletarian
Internationalism

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A write-up on developments over NRC, Assam, countrywide protest against NRC and other photos of Kerala relief operation could not be accommodated because of shortage of space.

SUCI (Communist) undertakes intensive countrywide collection of relief materials and funds for Kerala flood victims, Kerala comrades also taking up widespread rescue and follow-up operations

In one of the worst natural calamities the state has ever witnessed, Kerala is gasping from the recent flood deluge. Promptly rising to the occasion SUCI(Communist) leaders and comrades have released all their efforts in the flood affected districts of Kerala including Wynad, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulum, Kottayam, Alleppey and Pathanamthitta. Starting from collection of relief materials and funds from people, comrades of the Party opened about 30 camps in various districts. They looked for and rescued stranded flood victims and helped them to safe destinations, if necessary, the relief

camp. In their relief and rescue operations, comrades worked hand-in-hand with other voluntary organizations like Janakeeya Pratirodha Samithi, Medical Service Centre, Breakthrough Science Society and others, as also with the volunteers of AIDSO, AIDYO, AIMSS and AIUTUC. With helps from them, medical camps were set up and mobile medical units worked in the affected areas as also cleaning of houses and yards, removing muds and disinfecting premises were undertaken actively by the comrades along with campaign on hygiene and preventive measures against any outbreak of diseases. The Party has been

running 30 relief centres in Kerala.

Relief materials and funds were collected also from other places from all over the country. It ranged from Uttarakhand in the north to Karnataka- Tamilnadu in the south, from Assam- Tripura to Gujarat. A few instances need special mention.

A team of medical students and doctors under Medical Service Centre (MSC) banner and SUCI(C) volunteers went to Kerala for relief works from Bellary (Karnataka) with a fund of around 3lakh 30 thousand rupees and medicine worth 2 lakh 40 thousand rupees.

In another case in Dharwad, Karnataka, on the Bakrid day at Eidgah ground, when a batch of Party comrades were winding up their relief collections for Kerala

and Kodagu flood victims for the day, a group of women who had been begging at the same spot approached our comrades and contributed their whole collections during that morning to the relief fund. Thankfully comrades paid salute to these downtrodden women for their sense of humanity and fraternity. A similar instance took place at Nadia in West Bengal where an old woman, contributed to the relief fund the whole amount of money that she had collected begging during that day.

The massive spontaneous response of common people, including the instances cited above remain the bright silver linings amidst the dark gloom of self-centric society, capitalism is frantically trying to convert it into.



Rescue and cleaning operations are being done by Party volunteers and a Medical Camp



SUCI(C) volunteers are collecting fund for Kerala flood victims

SUCI (Communist) demands handing over the rescue operations and rehabilitation work in flood-ravaged Kerala entirely to the Army

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 19 August 2018:

The Central Committee of the SUCI(Communist) salutes all brave men and women who are facing the worst natural disaster in the history of Kerala, and also the people who are engaged in the rescue and relief works. Already 400 valuable lives have been lost in this disastrous flood that has ravaged the state of Kerala. Tens of thousands of people are crying for their life in Alleppey, Ernakulum, Thrissur, and Kottayam districts. 4 lakh people have taken refuge in the relief camps. Around 20 lakhs are caught helplessly in their waterlogged houses.

Considering the nature and magnitude of the disaster, it is clear that it is beyond the capacity of the civil administration to rescue and relocate lakhs of affected people. Therefore, the SUCI(C) Central Committee demands that the rescue operations to locate and save the thousands facing definite death should be entirely handed over to the Army. We also demand that this devastating flood which has destroyed the livelihood of lakhs of people in all the 14 districts of Kerala, should be declared a National Disaster.

The rescue operation required in such a massive and unprecedented disaster could have been better carried out with the modern methods and equipment which are available with the Army. Because of handling of the rescue operations by the State Government so far, damage containment has suffered a lot. Considering the ground reality, we strongly feel that in order to face this unprecedented flood situation in Kerala, the Central Government, the State Government and the Army should work in unison dividing the rescue operation in two parts—a short term one on war footing to save the life and property of the flood-affected people as well as reach out necessary relief material to them and a long term one to arrange for their proper rehabilitation and restoration of normalcy.

We also feel that with a view to carrying out this rescue, relief and rehabilitation operation on such a gigantic scale smoothly and with due precision, an empowered All Party Committee should be formed to oversee the work.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH